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FARM FACTS

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In This Issue:

<i>Crop Forecast October 1, 2000 . . .</i>	<i>1,2</i>
<i>Cotton Ginnings, October 1, 2000</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Milk Production</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Dairy Prices</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Hay Prices</i>	<i>4</i>

Tennessee Crop Yields Coming into Focus

Throughout the month of September, producers across the Volunteer State have been busy harvesting the State's row crops. As of October 1, nearly all of the corn and tobacco acreage had been harvested, while 17 percent of the soybeans and 42 percent of the cotton had been completed. With harvest complete or currently underway, producers have a much better handle on this year's crop yields. Gene Danekas, State Statistician for Tennessee, noted that based on an October 1 yield survey conducted by his office, most producers have found no big surprises once in their fields. "Producers had been anticipating highly variable yields this year, mainly due to their location within the State and at what times they received rain. There have been some very good yields reported, as well as some poor ones, but overall we did not see much change from our earlier forecast," said Danekas. Survey results show that the State's corn yield is forecast at 109 bushels per acre, 7 bushels above last year and the highest yield in the State since 1996. Farmers report that the crop was slightly better than expected, with some extremely good yields reported. It was also a good year for the State's tobacco growers. Burley tobacco is currently forecast at 2,100 pounds per acre, unchanged from the previous forecast, and the highest yield in the State since 1994. Producers are now busy preparing the crop for market. With a large amount of acreage left to be harvested, uncertainty continues to surround both the cotton and soybean crops. Rains near the end of September led to some harvesting problems, but cotton growers stayed with their earlier yield forecast of 565 pounds per acre. If realized, this will result in a total production of 700,000 bales, the highest amount in the State since 1995. The same rains, which caused delays in cotton harvest, were beneficial to the State's late planted soybeans. As a result, growers now forecast the overall soybean yield at 27 bushels per acre, up slightly from their earlier forecast but still below the five-year average. Danekas went on to say, "The State's hay producers had an excellent year with projected record yields."

Cotton Yields Remain Unchanged Despite September Rains

Tennessee cotton producers are anticipating slightly below average yields in 2000, mainly due to the hot and dry conditions of August. The year started out fairly good with growers getting the crop planted on time. Insect pressure remained in-check all year and the crop had good growing conditions throughout much of the spring and early summer. Unfortunately, hot and dry conditions during the month of August took its toll on the crop. During this time, the crop shed more than the normal amount of fruit and squares. Growers also encountered problems during the later part of September due to rain showers, but damage was minimal. Most growers were aiming for only one picking this year, but harvesting problems may force some to run the pickers through the fields a second time. Despite the recent problems, the yield forecast remains at 565 pounds per acre, up substantially from last year but slightly below the five-year average. With an estimated 595,000 harvested acres, total production is forecast at 700,000 bales.

Late Soybean Crop Shows Slight Improvement

It was another difficult year for soybean growers in many parts of the State due to the hot and dry conditions of August. However, many areas received much needed rain showers near the end of September which should help the late planted beans fill pods. Unfortunately, the State's full season varieties benefitted very little from these showers since many had already started to shed leaves by this time. Growers have been somewhat disappointed in the early single crop yields, but hope the improved late beans will make up the difference. The average State yield went up one bushel from the September 1 forecast and stands at 27 bushels per acre as of October 1. If realized this will lead to a total State production of 31.3 million bushels, 37 percent more than was produced last year.

Corn Yields Highly Variable

The 2000 corn crop is much better than the one produced a year ago, but many still had their share of problems. The best corn was grown in the northwest corner of the State, and in the extreme southern part of Middle Tennessee. The crop in these locations was planted early and received plenty of moisture during the critical pollination stage. It was a different story in parts of upper Middle Tennessee, where extremely dry conditions prevented the crop from reaching it's full potential. The average State yield is forecast at 109 bushels, up from the previous three years and in line with the five-year average. If realized, total production of 64.3 million bushels would be the highest level in the State since 1996.

(Continued on Page 2)

Tobacco grown in the major producing regions of Tennessee received just enough timely rainfall this year to ensure some very good yields. Typical problems with black shank and blue mold were reported, but the dry summer weather seems to have kept these diseases in-check with only the lower leaves affected in many cases. Harvest is virtually complete and growers are now in the process of preparing the crop for market. Most locations reported good curing conditions during the month of September. The fear of "sweating" did not materialize except in a small amount of dark air-cured tobacco. Burley yields are forecast at 2,100 pounds per acre, 210 pounds more than in 1999 and the best projected average since the crop of 1994. Total burley production, forecast at 94.5 million pounds, is 9 percent below last year's level, but if realized, would be approximately 9 percent above the effective quota. The drop in production is a direct result of the 45 percent cut in the quota which led to a 10,000 acre decrease in harvested area to an estimated 45,000. Tennessee's dark-fired tobacco yields are forecast at 2,500 pounds for Type 22, Eastern Dark-Fired and a record 3,000 pounds for Type 23, Western Dark-Fired. Type 35, Dark Air-Cured is forecast at a record 2,200 pounds per acre.

Record Year for Tennessee Hay Producers

Tennessee hay producers have had an excellent year in terms of yield and quality. Most growers were able to get two full cuttings, with many harvesting for a third time this fall. Some hay was lost in the Spring due to wet weather, but the additional cuttings more than made up for the loss. The State average hay yield, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 2.3 tons an acre. Total production is therefore forecast at 4.37 million tons. If realized, this will be a new State record for both yield and production.

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, October 1, 2000, with Comparisons

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		1999	Indicated 2000	1999	Indicated 2000	1999	Indicated 2000
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
Tennessee							
Apples	lb.	—	---	—	—	9,500	9,000
Corn for grain	bu.	570	590	102	109	58,140	64,310
Cotton ¹	lb.	565	595	505	565	595	700
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,850	1,900	2.00	2.30	3,700	4,370
Peaches	lb.	—	—	—	—	3,100	2,000
Soybeans	bu.	1,200	1,160	19	27	22,800	31,320
Tobacco, All	lb.	63.2	54.2	1,941	2,170	122,601	117,592
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.0	7.9	2,280	2,500	15,960	19,750
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.57	.63	2,500	3,000	1,425	1,890
Burley (31)	lb.	55.0	45.0	1,890	2,100	103,950	94,500
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.60	.66	2,110	2,200	1,266	1,452
Winter Wheat	bu.	340	380	56.0	55.0	19,040	20,900
United States							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	10,579,600	10,677,100
Corn for grain	bu.	70,537	73,099	133.8	139.6	9,437,337	10,191,817
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,424.9	13,544.0	607	620	16,968.0	17,485.1
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,175	38,274	1.92	1.90	75,153	72,680
Peaches	lb.	—	—	—	—	2,525,400	2,677,100
Soybeans	bu.	72,446	73,024	36.6	38.7	2,653,758	2,822,821
Tobacco, All	lb.	647.16	492.26	1,997	2,284	1,292,692	1,124,463
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	10.75	11.90	2,304	2,550	24,773	30,350
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	4.07	4.43	2,612	3,172	10,630	14,050
Burley (31)	lb.	303.60	201.00	1,829	2,072	555,185	416,452
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.45	3.66	2,325	2,528	8,021	9,252
Winter Wheat	bu.	35,572	35,401	47.8	45.0	1,699,989	1,594,321

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

REMINDER: All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about October 1.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters)
Prior to October 1, by Crop, State, and United States, Crop Years **1997-2000**

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Cotton				
AL	4,350	83,950	77,900	97,200
AZ	66,800	19,700	27,100	72,050
AR	40,900	237,400	335,700	305,100
CA ¹	59,650	---	---	22,500
FL ¹	---	3,550	5,000	5,800
GA	39,800	111,400	63,900	44,600
LA	130,250	178,450	277,700	413,050
MS	86,800	409,700	470,900	595,200
MO	13,150	46,150	135,700	108,400
NM ¹	0	---	---	2,500
NC ¹	---	77,450	---	4,100
OK	800	12,700	2,250	13,350
SC	1,200	67,650	4,000	11,200
Tennessee	9,250	128,800	152,800	220,200
TX	756,500	665,900	1,134,550	1,348,950
VA	0	10,200	0	0
US	1,210,450	2,056,400	2,689,850	3,264,200

¹ Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins, but included in the U.S. totals.

Tennessee Milk Production: July-September quarterly production of milk was 320 million pounds, unchanged from the July-September period in 1999. The average number of milk cows in Tennessee during the July-September quarter was 94,000 head, 1,000 head less than the same period a year earlier.

U.S. Milk Production: The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 41.3 billion pounds, 4.0 percent above the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the July-September quarter was 9.25 million head, 81,000 head more than the same period last year.

Quarterly Milk Production: Tennessee¹ and United States, July-September 1999-2000

Item	Unit	Tennessee		United States	
		1999	2000	1999	2000
		1,000 Head		Million Pounds	
Milk cows on farms ²	1,000	95	94	9,171	9,252
Milk production ³	mil. lbs.	320	320	39,771	41,348

¹ Tennessee is now in the quarterly milk program. ² Includes dry cows, but excludes heifers not yet fresh. ³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

U.S. Dairy Products Prices Highlights: **Cheddar Cheese** prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.20 per pound for the week ending October 14. The price per pound decreased 6.3 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 39 percent moisture averaged \$1.10 per pound, down 11.3 cents from the previous week. **Butter** prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.12 per pound for the week ending October 14. The U.S. price per pound decreased 2.2 cents from the previous week. **Nonfat Dry Milk** prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged \$1.01 per pound for the week ending October 14. The U.S. price per pound decreased 0.1 cents from the previous week. **Dry Whey** prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 18.2 cents per pound for the week ending October 14. The U.S. price per pound increased 0.1 cents from the previous week.

1999 Tennessee Hay Prices

The 1999 crop year was a difficult one for Tennessee hay producers. Production was down due to the late summer drought, and poor pasture conditions forced many livestock producers to feed hay much earlier than normal. The reduced supply led many farmers, who normally sell their surplus hay, to keep it for their own use. This reduction in supply pushed yearly average prices for alfalfa and all other hay above both the five and ten-year State averages. The biggest increase was seen in alfalfa, which set a new record Marketing Year Average price in 1999 of \$117.00 per ton.

Hay: Prices Received by Farmers, by Months, Tennessee, 1995-1999

Crop Year	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Marketing Year Average ¹
Dollars Per Ton													
Alfalfa Hay													
1995	89.00	87.00	87.00	85.00	86.00	86.00	80.00	86.00	81.00	87.00	91.00	94.00	86.00
1996	87.00	90.00	101.00	103.00	103.00	107.00	107.00	112.00	113.00	115.00	115.00	120.00	104.00
1997	110.00	105.00	112.00	112.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	106.00	108.00	111.00	114.00	120.00	108.00
1998	120.00	115.00	119.00	119.00	110.00	113.00	116.00	116.00	118.00	111.00	110.00	116.00	115.00
1999	110.00	110.00	110.00	115.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	125.00	130.00	125.00	117.00
All Other Hay													
1995	42.00	38.00	38.00	42.00	40.00	44.00	42.00	43.00	45.00	48.00	47.00	46.00	42.00
1996	49.00	43.00	40.00	44.00	42.00	41.00	41.00	42.00	43.00	48.00	50.00	54.00	43.00
1997	58.00	56.00	53.00	54.00	54.00	52.00	52.00	53.00	54.00	55.00	56.00	55.00	54.00
1998	56.00	51.00	48.00	51.00	52.00	57.00	54.00	56.00	59.00	59.00	59.00	56.00	54.00
1999	54.00	51.00	50.00	53.00	50.00	50.00	48.00	52.00	54.00	54.00	53.00	54.00	51.00
All Hay													
1990	50.00	50.00	47.00	46.00	44.00	47.00	51.00	51.00	51.00	51.00	52.00	50.00	49.00
1991	54.00	56.00	51.00	54.00	51.00	51.00	50.00	48.00	50.00	48.00	52.00	51.00	51.00
1992	55.00	55.00	57.00	54.00	56.00	48.00	47.00	49.00	49.00	45.00	51.00	54.00	52.00
1993	53.00	49.00	48.00	45.00	47.00	52.00	51.00	49.00	51.00	52.00	56.00	51.00	50.00
1994	53.00	52.00	47.00	50.00	52.00	53.00	50.00	53.00	51.00	53.00	54.00	45.00	51.00
1995	44.00	40.00	40.00	44.00	42.00	46.00	44.00	45.00	47.00	50.00	49.00	49.00	44.00
1996	50.00	45.00	42.00	46.00	44.00	43.00	43.00	45.00	46.00	50.00	52.00	56.00	45.00
1997	60.00	58.00	55.00	56.00	56.00	53.00	54.00	55.00	56.00	57.00	58.00	58.00	56.00
1998	58.00	53.00	50.00	53.00	54.00	59.00	56.00	58.00	61.00	61.00	61.00	58.00	56.00
1999	55.00	53.00	52.00	55.00	52.00	52.00	50.00	54.00	56.00	56.00	55.00	56.00	53.00

¹ Marketing year is May 1 of current year through April 30 of the following year.